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April 1997

Volume XXIV Issue 4

# Jim's Journal



Volume III

April 1, 1997

Good news! I got a very important message from the President's Office just this morning, and he wanted me to relay this message. It reads: "I have been in meetings all this month dealing with volunteer groups, during this time I have found out how important Amateur radio is to America and how it has woven its fabric into the American mainstream. Because of your important accomplishments I am immediately authorizing each licensed ham who is a member of an ARRL recognized club to draw from the Government a complete Mil spec radio receiving/transmitting station and one 150 foot free standing tower. The Army Corps of Engineers shall do all installation activities. All costs incurred thereof will be covered by The United States of America..." Do you think we can trust Bill? What about Jim...April fools! Well I might be joking about the free stuff, but I'm not fooling about our accomplishments as Ham radio operators.

The next Radio Club Meeting is on April 18, 1997, 7:30 P.M. at the United Methodist Good Shepherd Church at Vance and Reed. Due to construction at the Church you should plan to use the North Entrance. April is full of surprises, especially when it comes to the weather. This Month's meeting will

be an interesting one, as Russ Marshall from the National Weather service will be our featured speaker. Russ has been spending a lot of his time at the NEXRAD radar site now being installed in Noble County, and he has promised that he can answer many of the questions we may have about it. He also has a brand new Weather spotter's video for us to watch.

Our last meeting was rather a mixed bag, the three Hotshot troubleshooters who came prepared to trouble shoot and fix nearly anything, came away fixing nothing. You see, the members who attended the meeting were asked to bring in equipment to be repaired and, did not. However, we think that the demonstration of the 100 lbs. or so of test & troubleshooting equipment

**April Meeting:  
Friday  
April 18, 1997  
7:30 PM  
The Good Shepherd  
United Methodist  
Church.**

that was hauled in may have interested some of our members. The business portion of the meeting however, was very productive. I will not elaborate here but read the meeting minutes and get all of the details. The May banquet is progressing along nicely and Ray Yuranko is contacting the Senior Amateur Radio Operators who will be the spotlight speakers at the banquet.

The March fox hunt had Cliff (N9MKB) and Walt (N9AVR) as the foxes. As usual the den was a

challenge for the hunters to find. The exact location of the remotely operated transmitter was a tree outside of Cliff's Mother's apartment. Cliff and Walt were watching the action from his Mother's place. N9NRO (Carl) took first place.

Paul Mike Burns, another "Old Timer" and x-mayor of Ft. Wayne, asked the Club to announce that he was moving, and had 50 boxes of good radio parts to give away. It was on a first come, first serve bases, starting at 9:00 A.M. Who should appear at 8:45 A.M. but Kevin (N9IWW), and quickly load all 50 boxes! He was heard to say as he dashed away "the early bird gets the worm." Oh...There is one part of the story I haven't told you yet, As I understand it, Paul had completely wrapped all 50 boxes, and there was "no peeking" until you took them home. I expect we will be hearing some good "fish stories" from Kevin soon. I also think cleaning out my basement just got a whole lot easier.

This Month's bit of wisdom: Indecision is the key to flexibility. Also, you can't tell which way the train went, by looking at the track.

73's Jim





## March Minutes

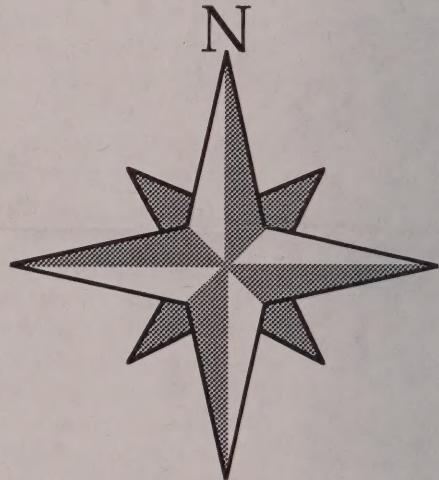
1. The March meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church on 21 March 1997. The meeting started at 7:30 p.m. and was lead by President Jim Pliett. There were about 30 people in attendance.
2. The minutes were approved as read.
3. Treasurer Carl Rittenhouse reported that since the February report, the General account had expenses of \$151.66 and Income of \$514.00, which leaves it with a balance of \$3534.91. There was no activity relative to the Repeater or Hamfest accounts, leaving them with balances of \$2354.44 & \$3872.83 respectively.
4. Cliff Shreve and Walt Wood took on the role of the wily prey in the last Foxhunt. They set themselves up on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Centliever Apartments and operated the transmitter, (stashed in a pine tree), remotely from the comfort of the apartment. This allowed them to chuckle as frustrated Foxhunters milled around trying to find their quarry. After about two hours, Carl Rittenhouse was finally successful, and thus, he will be the Fox at the next hunt which will start from Shoaf Park on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

5. Cliff Shreve noted that we are looking for helpers to sign-up for Field Day preparations. To do Field Day we must arrange for the park, see that the field is sprayed for mosquitoes, arrange for the Hog, see that the club's Field Day equipment is transported to the site and set up, get a load of wood for the bon-fire, and so forth. Cliff cannot do it all by himself!
6. Jim Pliett remarked that the .16/.76 output power has been intermittent of late. So it appears that a maintenance trip to the site is in order to look into the problem. He also noted that he replaced the final in the ATV transmitter last week, and it is operating normally as are the .91, .94, and 440 machines.
7. Jim announced that he is planning to try a mini-hamfest this year. It will be like the old style hamfests, sell out of your trunk instead of setting up tables. We need to find a field or parking lot to host it. One suggestion was to make use of the Veterans Day facility on O'Day road. It was suggested that we conduct a raffle as part of the hamfest in order to help generate income. The members present agreed that we should establish a seed-money fund of \$500 to proceed with the affair.
8. Bill Hall announced that between now and the end of the year, ongoing construction activity at the church may require that we occasionally relocate the meeting room. The relocation involves moving from the normal hall where we have been meeting to an auxiliary room (it was used for tonight's meeting) that is also located in the church building.
9. Annie Pliett volunteered to be Chairperson for the goodies at the Spring Banquet. She also suggested that we raffle prizes at the banquet, and in fact that we do the same thing at regular meetings as a means of raising income for the club.
10. Cliff Shreve announced that there are 7 seats remaining for the Dayton bus. He has arranged for a large Four Star Lines bus that sports air

conditioning, a VCR, facilities, and so-forth. The \$15 fee covers the cost of the round trip to the front doors of Hara Arena, and provides coffee, donuts, juice, and soda on board. The remaining seats are first come, first serve.

11. The business meeting concluded at 8:40 p.m. and was followed by a discussion on trouble-shooting, the decibel, and various pieces of test equipment presented by Walt Wood, Jim Pliett and Carl Rittenhouse.

Respectfully submitted  
Al Burke, WB9SSE



## OLD TYME CHATTER

Anniversaries notice in local paper that Bill, K9UMQ and Lucille Lewis celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Yuma, AZ. You may remember Bill as being one of the founders of "Antenna Wax along with Bill Thomas, KE9T. K9UMQ was also the founder of the local Promotion Co. My question, Did any FWRC members receive an invitation?

We know that Mike Cook, AF9Y likes to be in the forefront of communications. However I was suprised at his offer "Copy this weak signal and WIN \$100." See page 74 of April QST. Gary Huntress an EE at

Naval Undersea Warfare Center in RI collected the first \$100.

Several possible answers would be this is the April issue. I remember past April issues. Also the rumor that Mike has received a grant from a local Potato mfg. to determine if the release of a gas by-product into the Northwest area of FW atmosphere enhances the propagation of Radio Waves. Both K9UWA, John and I lived in that area, when John had great performances on 160. I in turn was able to work all continents on 50 mc. with 50 watts.

Some may wonder about our age, 87 next month. I can tell you that I am able to do more push-ups than my 2 sons, 4 grandsons, and 1 great-grandson. I do plan on retiring from this job on my ninetieth birthday.

This week I will try to work Scarborough Reef, BS7H, on for one week.

For years Don Wiebel, K9ECE has led the FWDX group in countries worked. As plans for a DXpedition to Kingman Reef and Palmyra that would include several of our local operators, a plot was hatched that K9ECE would not be worked until the last day they would be in operation. You can well realize the pressure Don experienced as each day went by without being recognized. Sometime we will talk about working Slim.

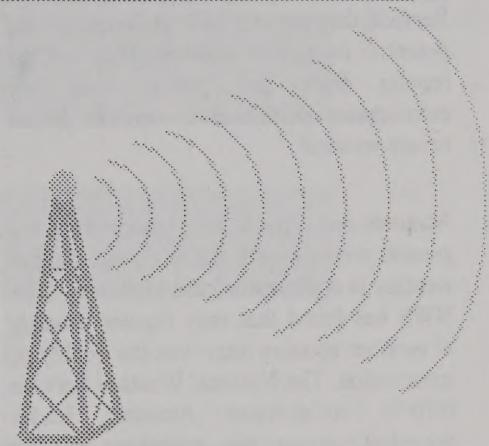
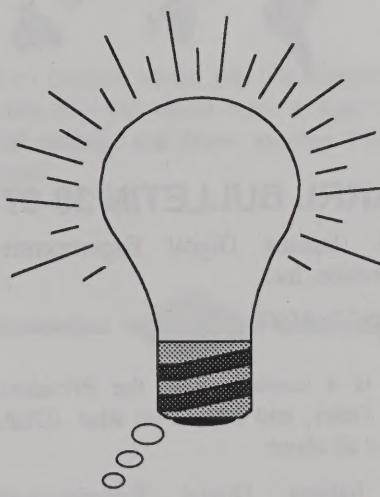
#### HISTORY

At this stage most of the Amateur's transmitting and receiving equipment was of necessity homemade. Only a few concerns in the country carried radio equipment of any kind prior to 1908, and their lines were highly limited. There were numerous radio firms, but they were interested solely in communications, like mushroom groups they sprang up everywhere, overnight, flourished briefly by making claims impossible for anyone to substantiate at that stage of the arts and died leaving just another splotch of murky scandal in the popular black eye that wireless was achieving - for the public

deceived and swindled time after time, still could not be assured that radio was any further advanced than the stage of "It will never amount to anything."

The few hundred amateurs, nevertheless, continued, unheeding the black deeds associated with their commercial cousins. By slow steps they were gradually achieving recognition. In 1906-07 there was published in the Weekly Western Electrician, of Chicago, the first American book-length treatise bearing the title "Radio Telegraphy," which explained the make-up and operation of all known methods of transmission and reception. By 1907 these amateurs had grown to sufficient strength to rate a regular monthly column in Electrician & Mechanic Magazine. The inauguration of this department was a tremendous boon to the transmitting Amateur, for it afforded him his first consistent supply of practical constructional information on current developments.

73  
W9TC



#### INARRL BULLETIN 29-97

What is Skywarn?

March 30, 1997

The season is already upon us so if you have not attended any training yet there will probably be a session offered near your location. Be prepared and read the text taken from the Internet concerning Skywarn and learn about the role of amateur radio in this program.

Skywarn is the National Weather Service (NWS) program of trained volunteer severe weather spotters.

Skywarn volunteers support their local community and government by providing the NWS with timely and accurate severe weather reports. These reports, when integrated with modern NWS technology, are used to inform communities of the proper actions to take as severe weather threatens. Skywarn, formed in the early 1970's, has historically provided critical severe weather information to the NWS in time to get the appropriate warnings issued. Thus the key focus of the Skywarn program is to save lives and property through the use of the observations and reports of trained volunteers. (Gropper, 1993)

Despite the elaborate radar and forecasting equipment at the National Weather

Service, they are only able to determine the potential for severe weather. They rely on reports from the public and law enforcement personnel to confirm actual severe weather.

Accurate and reliable information from the general public is difficult to obtain. Severe weather is complicated and confusing. The NWS has found that only regular training of weather spotters improves the quality of information. The National Weather Service (NWS) collaborates Amateur Radio organizations to put together training programs. The NWS brings its weather knowledge, the Amateur Radio Service brings its expertise in emergency communications, and together they work with local government and the Red Cross.

The Amateur Radio's operators participation in the Skywarn program is formally acknowledged and encouraged in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and the NWS. This agreement indicates that ARRL will encourage its local volunteer groups operating as the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) to provide the NWS with spotters and communications as requested by the NWS during times of severe weather. (Gropper, 1993)

Many civil disasters are the direct result of severe weather and/or are exacerbated by severe weather. Accordingly, the NWS may utilize the Skywarn Amateur Radio operators not only to obtain and disseminate severe weather observations and warnings, but may also use them to maintain close coordination with the Red Cross and Emergency Managers from local government entities under ARES or Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)(Gropper, 1993). RACES is an organization of volunteer Amateur Radio operators trained in emergency communications and severe weather spotting. Authorized and regulated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), RACES provides essential communications and warning links for

state and local governments during emergencies. The importance of this additional role for Skywarn was demonstrated during the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew in August of 1992.

Trained Skywarn observers provide the Weather Service with accurate, and timely reports from radio equipped cars and homes. The NWS is most interested in severe weather reports. Severe weather includes flash flooding, hail, damaging winds, a wall cloud (which is the area of a thunderstorm where a tornado could form) and a tornado funnel. If the NWS confirms severe weather with radar and other available information, it then notifies local authorities that then can activate Civil Defense sirens. The news media receives notification so they can make reports on local broadcast stations.

**Was training presented in your area of the state?**

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## INARRL BULLETIN 30-97

IDEA: Indiana Digital Experimenters Association, Inc.

March 30, 1997

Here is a message from the President, Dave Daley, and NU9H on what IDEA, INC. is all about:

The Indiana Digital Experimenters Association, Inc. (IDEA) is a group of Indiana hams dedicated to the

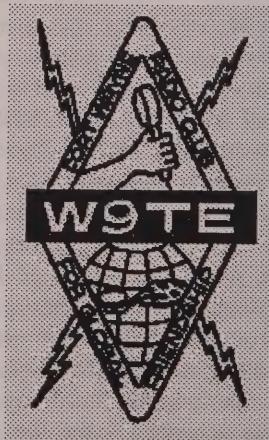
improvement of digital radio in the State of Indiana. At any given time our membership ranges in the neighborhood of 100-125 members from all over the state. Listed below are some of the things we are doing. We invite you to join us.

We sponsor FORUMS that give you information and tips on the many different aspects of digital radio. We can offer individual ASSISTANCE with your particular digital radio problem. We are building a high speed BACKBONE NETWORK that will soon link the whole state together. We provide you with help in getting COORDINATION for your packet server. We keep an eye on BAND PLANNING within the state and fight to PROTECT your digital frequencies. You get an attractive QSL style MEMBERSHIP CARD. You get a quarterly NEWSLETTER that keeps you informed about the packet happenings around the state.

All this for \$1.00 per month (\$12/year). In one sentence we exist to support and expand Amateur digital radio in the State of Indiana. We find this to be an interesting and enjoyable facet of ham radio. Please join us in the fun!

De NU9H/Dave President, IDEA

Do you belong to any special group? Your Bulletin Manager cannot report on it if it is kept a secret!



# For Sale

# Wanted

- **35-Foot aluminum tower. Contact Carl Rittenhouse (N9NRO) at 485-4012.**

All ads will run on a month by month basis. Please advise me if you need your ad run more than one month or you wish to extend your ad another month. My phone number is (219) 492-2138.

Thanks and 73s,

Todd Hargis N9XRG



**HOW ABOUT A TICKET FOR THE FWRC DAYTON HAMVENTION BUS TRIP. TICKETS ARE \$15.00 A PERSON. A GUARANTEED GOOD TIME. DON'T DELAY, MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW BY CALLING KEVIN ADAM N9IWW AT 490-7312**

**Visit the Fort Wayne Radio Club on the World Wide Web  
Address: <http://home.sprynet.com/sprynet/n9xrg/radio.htm>**

Do you have an interesting article or cartoon which you can contribute to the Hamsplatter? Do you have some spare equipment collecting dust that you might want to sell? If so please contact me, Todd Hargis N9XRG, at 492-2138 (leave detailed message and phone number if no answer) or I can also be reached via e-mail at "[toddhargis@homemail.com](mailto:toddhargis@homemail.com)".



**May Hamsplatter Deadline: May 1, 1997**

Membership Data: (Give this form to the treasurer at any FWRC meeting or mail to the address below)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ Class: N T G A AE

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Shall we list your address and phone number in the membership roster Y N?

Are you presently an ARRL member Y N?

Membership Term: (Jan - Dec) (Jul - Dec)

Family Membership:  \$21.00yr  \$10.50yr immediate family (list all callsigns)

Regular Membership:  \$15.00yr  \$7.50yr licensed member

Student Membership:  \$6.00yr  \$3.00yr full time student

Associate Membership:  \$15.00yr  \$7.50yr unlicensed member

Your Check Number \_\_\_\_\_ please pay by check. It's easier for both of us.

**Mail to:** The Fort Wayne Radio Club

PO Box 15127

Fort Wayne, IN 46885

## **1997 FOX HUNT SCORES**

## SUMMARY

HUNTER	SCORE
N9MKB	1369.58
N9AVR	1369.58
KB9DOT	1169.75
KB9DOS	1169.75
KB9LOF	1169.75
KF9AW	944.5
N9NRO	787.03
KA9YYI	760.25
K9OMA	760.25
N9VZJ	400
N9GK	0
KG9FM	0
KB9MI	0
MN	0
KB9DOP	0
N9KKG	0
KB9JVJ	0
KF2BS	0
N9XUW	0
KB9NRA	
KF9VZ	

# HAMSPATTER



Fort Wayne Radio Club  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

To: